

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follow:

1. (Original) An apparatus for use with a top drive, comprising:
a pivotable mechanism connected to a lower end of the top drive, wherein the pivotable mechanism has a bore therethrough and is pivotable towards and away from the top drive; and
a gripping head connected to a lower end of the pivotable mechanism and pivotable by the pivotable mechanism, wherein the gripping head grippingly engages a casing string.
2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for picking up a casing string from a rack and moving the casing string toward a center of a well for use with a top drive, comprising:
a tubular gripping member attached to a structural intermediate, wherein the structural intermediate is pivotable from the top drive to move the casing string toward the center of the well and wherein the tubular gripping member is rotatable by the top drive.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the structural intermediate and the gripping member provide fluid communication to an inner diameter of the casing string.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the structural intermediate comprises a first portion pivotable with respect to a second portion.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the first portion is operatively connected to the top drive and the second portion is operatively connected to the tubular gripping member.

6. (Original) A method for use in drilling with casing with a top drive, comprising:
providing a tubular gripping member pivotally connected to the top drive, wherein
the tubular gripping member is rotatable relative to the top drive;
locating the top drive at a center of a well;
pivoting the tubular gripping member away from the center of the well;
engaging a casing with the tubular gripping member; and
pivoting the tubular gripping member toward the center of the well.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising connecting the casing to
a casing string with a cutting structure disposed at its lower end.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising rotating the casing string.
9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising allowing incremental
movement of the top drive while the casing is connected to the casing string.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising providing a compensator
to allow for the incremental movement of the top drive.
11. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising providing a stretch
sensor to determine a connection between the casing and the casing string.
12. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the tubular gripping member
comprises a torque head.
13. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the tubular gripping member
comprises a spear.
14. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein a structural intermediate pivotally
connects the tubular gripping member to the top drive.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the structural intermediate is rotationally fixed relative to the tubular gripping member and is rotatable relative to the top drive.

16. (Original) A method for moving a casing string to a center of a well, comprising:

providing a top drive and a tubular gripping member pivotally connected by a tubular structural intermediate;

pivoting the structural intermediate to bias the tubular gripping member toward the casing string;

grippingly engaging the casing string with the tubular gripping member so that the casing string and the tubular gripping member are rotationally and axially fixed relative to one another; and

moving the casing string to the center of the well.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein moving the casing string to the center of the well comprises pivoting the structural intermediate to move the casing string to the center of the well.

18. (Original) A top drive adapter for gripping a casing string in a non-vertical position with respect to the center of a well, comprising:

a tubular gripping member for gripping the casing string in the non-vertical position; and

a tubular structural intermediate for biasing the tubular gripping member away from the center of the well,

wherein the top drive adapter is rotatable relative to the top drive.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a compensator.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a stretch sensor.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the stretch sensor determines a stretching of the compensator.
22. (Currently Amended) A system for handling a tubular, comprising:
a top drive;
a first gripping member operatively coupled to the top drive;
a second gripping member; and
an interlock system connected to the first gripping member and the second gripping member, the interlock system adapted to ensure ~~for ensuring~~ that at least one of the first gripping member or the second gripping member is connected to the tubular.
23. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising a compensator.
24. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising a stretch sensor.
25. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising a counter to measure rotation of the tubular.
26. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising a torque sub to measure torque exerted on the tubular.
27. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the tubular comprises a casing.
28. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the tubular comprises a casing connected to a casing string.
29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the tubular comprises a cutting member disposed at a lower portion of the tubular.

Please add the following new claims:

30. (New) A method for use in drilling with casing with a top drive, comprising:
providing a tubular gripping member pivotally connected to the top drive, wherein the tubular gripping member is rotatable relative to the top drive;
providing a stretch sensor to determine a connection between the casing and the casing string;
locating the top drive at a center of a well;
pivoting the tubular gripping member away from the center of the well;
engaging a casing with the tubular gripping member;
pivoting the tubular gripping member toward the center of the well; and
connecting the casing to a casing string with a cutting structure disposed at its lower end.
31. (New) A method for use in drilling with casing with a top drive, comprising:
providing a tubular gripping member pivotally connected to the top drive, wherein the tubular gripping member is rotatable relative to the top drive, wherein the tubular gripping member comprises a spear;
locating the top drive at a center of a well;
pivoting the tubular gripping member away from the center of the well;
engaging a casing with the tubular gripping member; and
pivoting the tubular gripping member toward the center of the well.
32. (New) An apparatus for use with a top drive, comprising:
a pivotable mechanism connected to a lower end of the top drive, wherein the pivotable mechanism has a bore therethrough and is pivotable towards and away from the top drive;
a gripping head connected to a lower end of the pivotable mechanism and pivotable by the pivotable mechanism, wherein the gripping head grippingly engages a casing string;
a compensator; and

a stretch sensor.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the stretch sensor determines a stretching of the compensator.

34. (New) A system for handling a tubular, comprising:
a top drive;
a first gripping member operatively coupled to the top drive;
a second gripping member;
an interlock system for ensuring that at least one of the first gripping member or the second gripping member is connected to the tubular; and
a stretch sensor.

35. (New) A system for handling a tubular, comprising:
a top drive;
a first gripping member operatively coupled to the top drive;
a second gripping member;
an interlock system for ensuring that at least one of the first gripping member or the second gripping member is connected to the tubular; and
a counter to measure rotation of the tubular.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bore is adapted for fluid flow.

37. (New) An apparatus for picking up a casing string from a rack and moving the casing string toward a center of a well for use with a top drive, comprising:
a tubular gripping member attached to a structural intermediate, wherein the structural intermediate is pivotable from the top drive to move the casing string toward the center of the well and wherein the structural intermediate and the gripping member provide fluid communication to an inner diameter of the casing string.

38. (New) The system of claim 22, further comprising a pivotable mechanism for pivoting the first gripping member.